

Message Text

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60

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7417

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EC, EAGR, BE

SUBJECT: COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO TAX VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS

REF STATE 170962

1. AS PER REFTEL, ECON COUNSELOR AND AGATT CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF US POSITION RE SUBJECT TAX TO HERMAN DEHENNIN, MINISTER, GENERAL DIRECTION

OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, MFA, STRESSING BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF ADOPTION OF COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL. DEHENNIN CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM AND IMPLICATIONS, AND PROMISED TO GET IN TOUCH TODAY WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

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AGATT ALSO REVIEWED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH CLEMENT CROHAIN,

CHEF DE CABINET, MOA. CROHAIN SAID ENTIRE EC DAIRY PACKAGE MAY BE POSTPONED FOR ONE YEAR BECAUSE OF CURRENT DROUGHT AND PROBABILITY THAT EC WOULD NOT HAVE SEVERE DAIRY SURPLUSES AT END OF YEAR. HE SAID POSTPONING CONSIDERATION OF EC DAIRY PACKAGE WOULD AT LEAST TEMPORARILY RESOLVE SUCH VOLATILE ISSUES AS PRODUCER CO-RESPONSIBILITY, AS WELL AS VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS TAX. ACCORDING TO CROHAIN, BELGIUM HAS NOT YET ADOPTED FORMAL POSITION ON TAX ISSUE AND ADDED THAT BELGIUM WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE THE LEADING ADVOCATE OF SUCH A MEASURE. HE FURTHER SAID GERMANS WOULD BE THE MOST DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE ABOUT ACCEPTING THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL.

COMMENT. SUBSEQUENT TO EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS, WE NOW BELIEVE THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT WITHIN OFFICIAL BELGIAN CIRCLES ABOUT SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH US VIEWS EC PROPOSAL. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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